



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1872-12-19

Letter from John Muir to Sarah [Muir Galloway], 1872 Dec 19.

John Muir

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Yosemite Valley
Dec 19th 72

My dear Sister Sarah
Your long good letter
dated Oct 27th is received
I am always glad to hear
from any part of home
though I may sometimes
seem slow in replies it
is not because of lack of love
but only because of the amount
of work I have on my hands
I mean to give up letter
writing in a great measure
because it consumes too much
of my time & in spite of all
my hiding so far in the States
is constantly increasing.

George's picture I knew
at once. My friends com-
pelled me to sit for my picture
in town last month. I was

I all her little ones & John
I am well with love even the
same John Brown

Merrill has gone
to Salem Oregon
to spend the winter
with his uncle

50637

terribly dazed & confused with
the dust & dim & heavy sticky
air of that low region. therefore
I don't believe my picture
will be worth having. but
I will write to a friend to
have him mail a copy to
your address - I have
none of them.

I am very happy, &
all the world is kind to me
A friend in Manchester Eng
sent me the other day a
hundred dollars worth of in-
struments. Prof Carr says I
am not changed a whit
since he saw me in Madison.
How grandly you all
are being clustered about
with children.

Remember me to David
& to all your little ones & big
& to old Mrs Zalloway
I am glad to hear of her

Health & general comfort
Her bodily eyes are shut
but I know that the far-seeing
eyes of her soul are open wide
& that she sees a far richer
landscape in the spirit world
than we are able to conceive
A pure human soul is never
blind, the whole being becomes
one transparent eye ball
filled with God who is light.

I hope the little pond
with the grand Bermuda
is untrampled. I hope to
see it some day after these
long ramblings come to a
close in the afternoons days
of life.

I hardly hope to be here
more than a year or two
longer, my life work is
over all the world
My love to Maggie

[Original letter in possession of Sarah Muir Galloway]

Yosemite Valley, Dec. 19th, '72.

My dear sister Sarah:

Your long good letter dated Oct. 27th is received. I am always glad to hear from any part of home, and though I may sometimes seem slow in replies it is not because of lack of love, but only because of the amount of work I have on my hands. I mean to give up letter-writing in a great measure because it consumes too much of my time, and in spite of all my hiding so far in the mountains is constantly increasing.

George's picture I knew at once. My friends compelled me to sit for my picture in town last month. I was terribly dazed and confused with the dust and din and heavy sticky air of that low region; therefore I can't believe my picture will be worth having, but I will write to a friend and have him mail a copy to your address. I have none of them.

I am very happy, and all the world is kind to me. A friend in Manchester, Eng. sent me the other day, a hundred dollars worth of instruments. Prof. Carr says I am not changed a whit since he saw me in Madison. [see letter to Mrs Carr, Mar. 16, 1872, re instruments]

How grandly you all are being clustered about with children. Remember me to David and to all your little ones and big, and to old Mrs. Galloway. I am glad to hear of her health and general comfort. Her bodily eyes are shut, but I know that the far-seeing eyes of her soul are open wide and that she sees a far richer landscape in the spirit world than we are able to conceive. A pure human soul is never blind, the whole being becomes one transparent eyeball filled with God who is Light.

I hope the little pond with the grand Osmundas is untrampled. I hope to see it some day after these long ramblings come to a close in the afternoon days of life.

I hardly hope to be here more than a year or two longer. My life-work is over all the world.

My love to Maggie and all her little ones and John. Farewell, with love ever the same,

John Muir

Merrill has gone to Salem, Oregon, to spend the winter with his uncle.